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Written Testimony submitted by

John Rumberger, Vice President of Housing and Legislation

On behalf of the membership of Conn-NAHRO

Conn-NAHRO is the Connecticut chapter of the National Association of Housing and Redevelopment Officials; its membership is comprised of Public Housing Authorities and other individuals and organizations involved in affordable housing.

Co-Chairpersons Bartolomeo and Butler and members of the Housing Committee

My name is John Rumberger; I am the Vice President of Housing and Legislation for Conn-NAHRO and also the Facilities Manager of the Middletown Housing Authority.

**We are writing in support of S.B. No. 365 (RAISED) AN ACT CONCERNING
WAITING LISTS IN PUBLIC HOUSING**

As many of you are aware, Connecticut's Housing Authorities are confronted with continued issues of sustainability. You will hear from many of my Conn-NAHRO counterparts regarding SB 365. I would like to speak to you how the burdensome waiting list requirements contribute to our struggle for survival and we respectfully request that you allow us to use the more effective and current method of date and time allowed under Federal regulations. The current requirements are outlined in the Regulations of Connecticut State Agencies, Section 8-37ee-1 through Section 8-37ee-314

The random lottery method requires all property to open and close its waiting list in order to house a prospective resident by;

- advertising the opening and closing of the wait list
- accepting applications for a pre-determined amount of time (90 days per 37ee-303)
- selecting a random draw of applicants to determine the order of the interview and application process
- Begin the eligibility determination process

All the while, during this time no one is being housed which runs counter to our mission of "providing safe, decent and affordable housing". This in turn strikes at our financial viability and limits our ability to house the very constituent group we are charged with serving.

The random lottery process is cumbersome, time intensive and expensive. Advertising costs alone run in the thousands of dollars. The delays related to administering the process on an ongoing basis potentially lead to vacancy loss and monetary loss if sufficient applicants do not remain on the waiting list between lottery selections.

Allowing a random lottery for initial lease up to occur for applications of newly constructed properties is certainly reasonable. The regulation already contains that language and we take no exception. However, date and time is currently used for federal waiting lists. We urge that the waiting list regulations be amended to allow for date and time waiting list management and allow for a single, efficient method of housing potential residents.

In conclusion I would like to reiterate that CONN-NAHRO appreciates the many efforts of the housing committee to support our industry. We urge you to pass SB 365 to better enable us to work house those in the greatest need.

Thank you for taking the time to read this testimony.

Respectfully submitted,

John Rumberger